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From: Cheryl Rae
Sent: Fri 3/27/2015 9:56:25 PM
Subject: Problems in the USVI
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[IMG_4028.jpg](#)
[IMG_4029.jpg](#)

Hello all,

I wanted to make sure my voice gets in this discussion. I have clients in the USVI and go down there 3-4 times a year. I am always struck by the dysfunction and the corruption and so happy to leave after being there only a short time.

Everywhere you look is a beautiful view and unfathomable pollution, a beautiful view and pathetic 3rd world practices that should not happen in an American territory, a beautiful view and desperate islanders looking for help solving problems of a magnitude that needs federal intervention.

I was on island last week. I know that EPA was too. I was the person who built the VIRP website (as well as EAST, VICS, UVI GTC and many other environmental websites in the islands) - I participated in the VIRP for many years until I was sick of watching WMA lie to all of us. They will never recycle or compost. They will point to small private entities doing what they can to help - but it's the job of the waste management utility in any city/municipality to do the full scale recycling and they aren't interested in doing it. If they were - they would have started by now. I don't know how many times I've told them they have to be the ones who do this. They have the bins, the haulers, the contracts, we pay them for this.... and yet they insist it is NOT their job.

I took these pictures in a nice middle class neighborhood on the northside. This is just an example of the craziness that is the USVI. This is an electric meter. There are live wires in there - exposed to rain, and pests and who knows what. This would never happen stateside in a credible city. Zoom in on it. It's a total hazard. But it's everywhere. I just decided I would start sending you pictures. If a picture tells a 1000 words then I will send you a book, every chance I get.

No one is exaggerating the corruption in the islands. These islands are unregulated and EPA rules go unenforced. I was shocked by the tragedy this last week of the poisonings on St. John. But I was not surprised that something of that magnitude would and could happen there. People do whatever they want. There is no official oversight of anyone, anywhere. If there was - someone would have told that company that they couldn't import Methyl Bromide and use it

indoors.

I'm also going to ask you to please discontinue the USVI's delegated status. And every time I write I will ask for that same thing. I do believe after helping fight the good fight down there for the last 11 years - it's the only way to save this beautiful view.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Rae